

District 14 residents favor big cuts in taxes and spending Paul says response to constituent survey reaffirms need for responsible government FOR RELEASE: Sunday, July 12, 1997

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WASHINGTON, DC - Texans living in the 14th District say they want lower taxes, right now, and they are willing to see massive parts of the federal government abolished to achieve that goal, according to the results of a survey released by US Representative Ron Paul (R-Surfside, TX). The survey, which was included in a recent constituent newsletter, asked five questions of readers and encouraged them to return the survey.

"The results were very surprising, even for me. I've long held that the federal government's spending and taxes need to be cut significantly, and now constituents in the 14th District have responded even more overwhelming than I could have imagined," said Paul. "The people of the 14th District want to see the end of the era of massive government, and an end to the era of massive tax burdens."

Almost two-thirds of the survey respondents indicated that tax cuts were in their top three legislative priorities. A similar number of respondents indicated they wanted to see tax cuts which are "immediate" and "across-the-board."

"I have long known Americans are sick of high taxes, and are even more sick of the book-keeping lies they are told by government about tax cuts. I have vowed to cut taxes at every opportunity and to never, ever, vote for a tax increase. This reaffirms my position and I am proud to be sponsoring and cosponsoring several pieces of legislation which will make significant cuts in taxes for all Americans," said Paul.

When asked what agencies they would abolish (given the chance to choose as many as they wanted from a list of eight): close to 75% reported they wanted to get rid of the National Endowment for the Arts; 55%, the Department of Education; 50%, the Bureau of Alcohol Tobacco and Firearms; 40%, the Environmental Protection Agency; and, 39%, the Department of Labor.

"Right down the line, the people of the 14th District say they do not want Washington running their lives and spending their money. I am proud that I have taken a strong stance in abolishing the NEA, and my complete opposition to the Department of Education, the BATF, the EPA and the Department of Labor are very well-known," said Paul. "It's time for Congress to start being responsive to the people who pay for these unconstitutional boondoggles. Congress obviously doesn't really care about the Constitution, but the people do, and the people are, obviously, sick and tired of paying for these programs which simply should not exist."

Paul said the results of the survey match exactly what he has been hearing while traveling the district holding town hall meetings.

"So far I have yet to meet someone saying, 'Please increase my taxes.' In fact, everyone I hear from tell me they are sick of the high taxes, sick of the big spending, and are ready to see real changes made in Washington, DC."

Following are the results of the survey.

[Number of Responses: 744]

QUESTION 1:* *I would support tax cuts:* 1. which are immediate 3.93% 2. which are across the board

9.49%

3. A&B

61%

QUESTION 2:* *I think the following federal agencies/departments should be abolished (circle all that apply):* Department of Education 54.43% Department of Labor 38.98%

38.98%

Department of Commerce

38.71%

National Endowment for the Arts

74.1%

Environmental Protection Agency

40.18%

Fish and Wildlife Services
26.34%
Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms
49.32%
Other
24.66%

- QUESTION 3:*
- Which issue is your highest priority: 2nd Amendment Protection -- 23% Tax Cuts -- 21% Pro-Life Issues -- 12%
Which issue is second: Second Amendment Protection -- 13% Tax Cuts -- 25% Pro-Life Issues -- 14%

QUESTION 5:*

Which issue is third: Second Amendment Protection -- 11% Tax Cuts -- 15% Pro-Life Issues -- 6% Education Reform -- 15% Balanced Budget -- 17% Agriculture Issues -- 4% Medical Issues -- 13% Monetary Policy -- 8%

* Percentages based on number of people responding to survey who chose a particular answer as best matching their opinion.